

# Newest Ancestry Features

## (June 2024)

### [Video Link](#)

Some of these new features have been quietly rolling out on the Ancestry platform and you may not have noticed. Some have been out for a few months, and I am just now able to get a video out about them. This is *not* a complete list of everything new. 😊

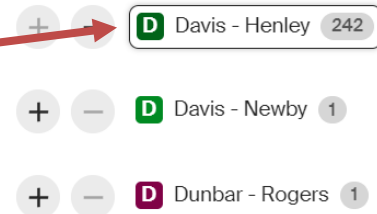
### AncestryDNA®

#### New Appearance to the Ancestry DNA Matches

See the new first letter of each color?

We now have 32 colors instead of 24. Some regions might not have 32 groups but have 32 colors to choose from.

The box around the group name means the selected person has already been added to this group.



#### Maternal vs. Paternal Duplicated

When clicking on More Filters in the DNA Match List and choosing Parental Sides, you will get this side panel as shown. This is a holdover from when we were manually creating the maternal and paternal sides. Now Ancestry does that for us.

#### Origins

Scroll down on the right side column to take note of the latest update. **Ethnicity Estimates** are often rolled out in late summer or early fall each year.

##### Parental sides

- All matches
- Custom labeled maternal side
- Custom labeled paternal side
- Custom labeled both sides
- Plus**
- Maternal
- Paternal
- Both sides
- Unassigned

Currently, **Ancestry has 25 million DNA tests** in their database. As more people take DNA tests, this helps Ancestry refine the regions around the world, thus narrowing the regions (also using the family trees of DNA test takers in combination with the DNA clusters). This larger cluster of data helps focus where the populations are rooted geographically.



Also know that different companies have different reference panels and number of DNA kits in their databases, thus you will see different companies divide the geographic regions differently. If you have a DNA test at more than one company, this explains why you may see different results (percentagewise).

## Number of Matches Per Page Hack – by Donna Rutherford.

Donna Rutherford did an informative video on her YouTube channel. You can find it [here](#). At about 19:10 into her video she talks about a hack where you can change the page number by changing the URL. You can also use the same trick where you can change the number of items (DNA matches) per page. Keep in mind it might slow your results if you add too many to the URL.

And here is [Donna Rutherford YouTube Channel](#).

## Filter DNA Matches

Filters can make what feels like an overwhelming list of DNA matches and sort them into manageable groups. Learning to group your DNA matches can help you understand how the DNA cousins fit into your tree. You can then research their trees to see if they have any clues you can use to further your research.

When you click on the More Filters button at the top of the DNA match list page, you can use the filters to narrow the list. Scroll down on the right side for more filters such as the one shown here. Click the Parental sides to see this view.

Now Ancestry in the last year or so has automatically identified the maternal from the paternal sides. The screen shot above shows where I had created custom groups for the fathers side and the mothers side of the tree. Below are the groups that Ancestry created.

Filter DNA matches by:

Hidden matches

Trees ∨

Shared DNA ∨

Groups ∨

Parental sides ∧

All matches

Custom labeled maternal side

Custom labeled paternal side

Custom labeled both sides

**Plus**

Maternal

Paternal

Both sides

Unassigned

## Grouping DNA Matches (Briefly)

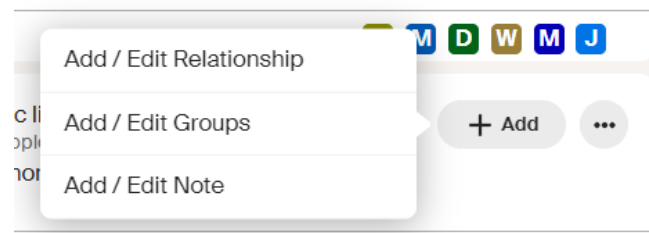
Originally when we first started **grouping our DNA matches** on Ancestry, we would take our “**Best Known Match**” in the DNA match list (knowing they come from either the maternal or paternal side and knowing the shared ancestral couple) then click into the “**Best Known Match.**” From there you would click on the **Shared Matches Tool**. We still use this today for 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins and beyond, but Ancestry identifies the Maternal from the Paternal automatically (unless there is endogamy in the family).

Once you click on the **Shared Matches Tool**, you have a list of everyone that belongs to that same branch of the family. You can then add them to a group that you name that represents that branch.

## Add or Edit

### Relationships/Groups/Notes

Use the + Add button to add or edit relationships, groups, or notes. I use all three to help me remember how I am related to each DNA cousin.

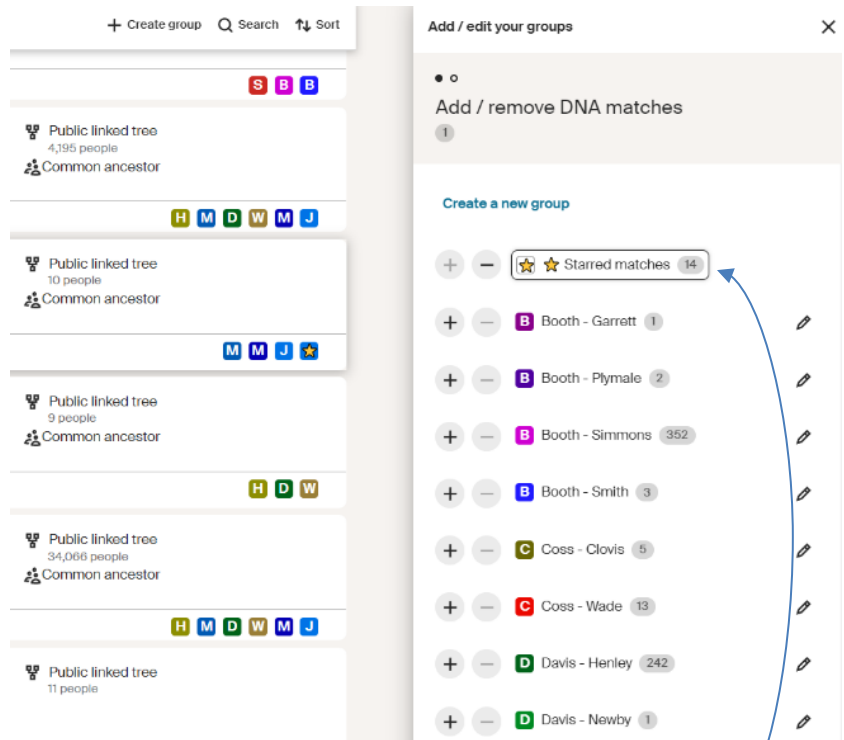


## New Colors in DNA Match List

One of the newest changes in the DNA match list is that we no longer have the colored dots, but instead we have squares with letters in them that are from the first letter of each group name.

When clicking on the + Add menu and choosing Edit Groups, we get a side panel that pops out to allow creating new groups, starring (favorite) a DNA Cousin, or add them to an existing group we have previously created.

The box around a group means that the chosen DNA cousin match has already been added to the group.



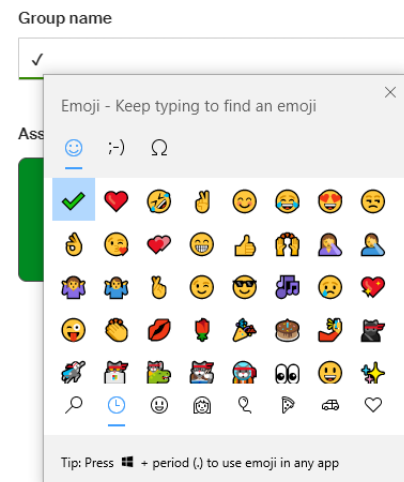
## Stars

In addition to groups, you can “star” a DNA match as a favorite and sort to just those favorite DNA matches. This can be handy if you are working on a specific DNA project.

## Emojis

Donna Rutherford demonstrated how you can use the **Windows key + the . key** to bring up a list of Emojis in any application.

Adding the emoji to the first character in the name field will add the emoji to the color. In this case a check mark.



## Card Catalog New Collections

It is a good habit to go into the Card Catalog to see what is new there. Sort by Date Updated.

Go Search>Card Catalog>sort by Date.

Here you can see that billions of records have been added for Australia, England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and more in newspapers.

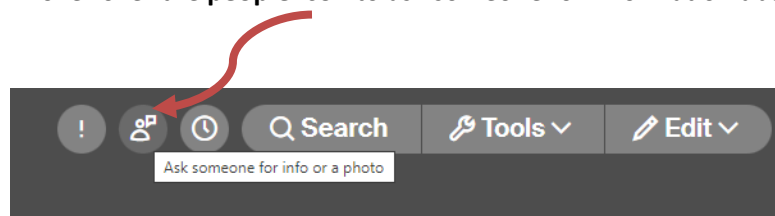
## Activity in Profile View

There are new buttons in the Profile View in the upper right corner.

### Ask or Email Someone

Some of these are born out of a desire for Ancestry to encourage family collaboration.

Hover over the **people icon** to ask someone for information about this profile.



This gives permission for the person you are asking via email to see this profile.

### Changes (Profile View)

Hover and click over the clock icon will show you the most recent changes you have made to that ancestor.

You can see changes that people you have invited to edit your tree will show here as well.

**Activity** BETA

**Changes**

Showing Henry Gustave's changes only

**April**

**Constance Knox** April 21, 2024  
updated Henry Gustave Henley  
Name

**2023**

**Constance Knox** September 10, 2023  
accepted a record hint on Henry Gustave Henley  
1870 United States Federal Census

[See connected changes >](#)

Card Catalog			
Searchable listing of all record collections			
Title	Category	Records	Sort By Date Updated
Tasmania, Australia, Hobart Town Gazettes, 1844-1906	Newspapers & Periodicals	506,010	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Victoria, Australia, Port Phillip Government Gazettes, 1847	Newspapers & Periodicals	7,534	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Australia, Education Gazettes, 1893-1959	Newspapers & Periodicals	162,870	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Colorado, U.S., Voter Registration Records, 2010-2023	Census & Voter Lists	4,340,330	<a href="#">NEW</a>
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Auctions of Enslaved People and Bounties on Freedom Seekers Index, pre-1880	Newspapers & Periodicals	163,857	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Australia, City Directories and Almanacs, 1845-1948	Directories & Member Lists	35,544,885	<a href="#">UPDATED</a>
England, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	964,449,912	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Web: South Australia, Australia, Passenger Lists, 1827-2011	Immigration & Emigration	351,084	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Scotland, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	70,090,188	<a href="#">NEW</a>
Gard, France, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1791-1912 (in French)	Birth, Marriage & Death	9279,073	<a href="#">UPDATED</a>
Wales, Newspapers.com™ Stories and Events Index, 1800's to current	Newspapers & Periodicals	91,090,301	<a href="#">NEW</a>

## Activity in Tree View

From the Tree View there are several recently added Activity menu options.

### Tasks (from the tree view)

These tasks are visible to you and to those you have invited to your tree. This is different from comments and notes in the profile view. This is where you can keep a “to do” list or communicate with others collaborating on the same tree.

### Changes

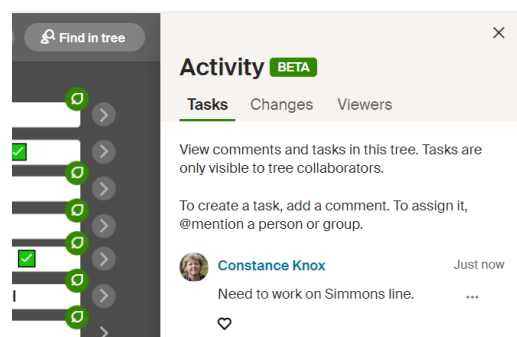
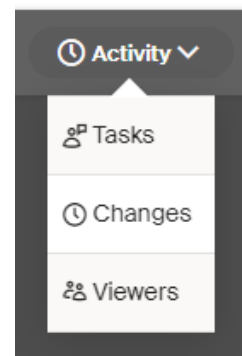
This is an ongoing list of changes you have made throughout your tree (not just one ancestor). This is great for backtracking to where you last were working.

If you are collaborating with other family members and they have editing rights, then you can see what changes they have made in the family tree as well.

### Viewers

Viewers show who has viewed your tree recently. Click into the Ancestry member and look at their tree to see if you have anything in common. Once there you can search their tree for common surnames. You can opt out of this feature if you choose.

This setting can be changed in your account settings. Go to your account icon in the upper right corner, drop down to Account Settings, Trees, scroll down to Recent Viewers. Click the right arrow to turn it on or off.



## Recent viewers

See who's viewed your trees, and let tree owners see when you've viewed their tree

Recent tree viewers

On



Again, all these tools are to encourage collaboration.

## Member Search

You can search for other Ancestry members in two ways.

Search by **Username** or **Research Interest**.

Matching other members to the **Research Interest** is assisted by what you put in *your account profile*, but not entirely necessary.

Depending on your search criteria will depend on the results. My experience is less is more. In other words, searching to the county level may not garner any results. Searching to the state level will give you better results.

### Search members by

Name or username Research interest

Last name

Location

Year

**Search**

Results 1-10 of 11

### Your Profile

- Click on your **circle icon in the upper right corner** (Your Profile), then click **Your Profile**.
- Scroll down, on the left side, you will see **Research Interests**. Click **Edit** to add new interests.
- Alternatively, you can click **Expand All** at the bottom of the short list.
- Click Edit to add new interests. I suggest noting Surnames and Counties/Locations you are researching in.

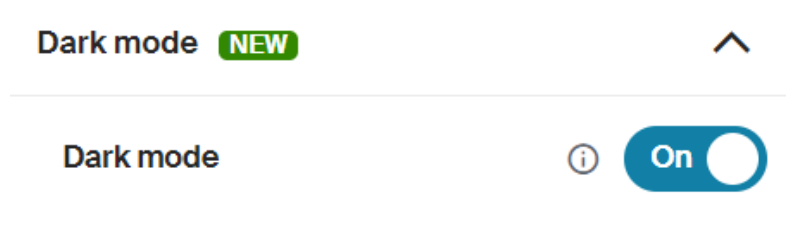
### Member Search for Similar Interests

- Going back to the **Search** tab, then **Member Search**, click on **Research Interest**.
- Search based on Interests that match what is in your profile.

## Dark Mode

Switching to dark mode can help save your eye strain after hours of research.

Find the dark mode toggle at the bottom of the Tree Viewing Options.



# Pro Tools

Pro Tools is an add-on feature requiring a monthly subscription. After it was first announced, we saw pricing from \$10 and up.

## Charts & Reports (Pro Tools)

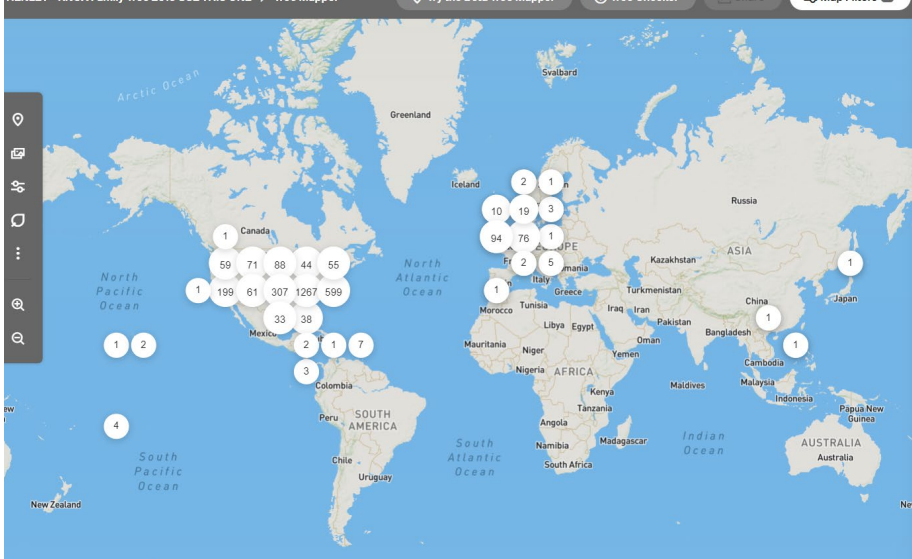
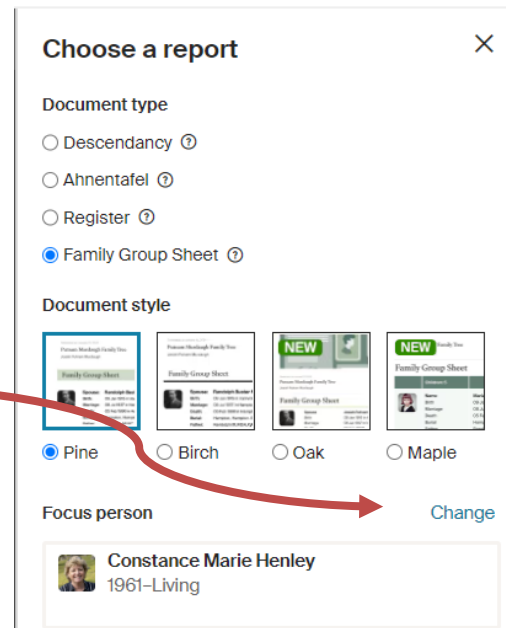
To access the **Charts and Reports** from the **tree view**, go to the tree icon in the left side menu and click on **Charts and Reports**. It will instantly create a report for whomever is the **focus person** (person last highlighted) in your tree. This will often default to you if you are the home person and you have not clicked on anyone else.

Once in the Charts and Reports area, you can **change the Focus Person** right from the Charts and Reports area.

You can also access Charts and Reports from an ancestors profile in the upper right corner.

## Search Your Tree by Location (Tree Mapper – Pro Tools)

For years, Ancestry users have been asking for a way to search their tree by location. This is the next best thing. Here you can see, and drill into locations on the map to see what ancestors were living in a specific area.



Filter by name

Name

Filter by location

City, County, State, Country

Filter by time

Year  -----  Exact year

Events & places

Family line

Direct line ancestors

Paternal line

Maternal line

End of line

People without relationships

Possible errors

Hints

You can also filter by **Name**, **Location**, **Years**, **Paternal** or **Maternal** sides of the family... as well as **Direct Line Ancestors**, **End of Line** (meaning the farthest back in your tree) and **People Without Relationships**.

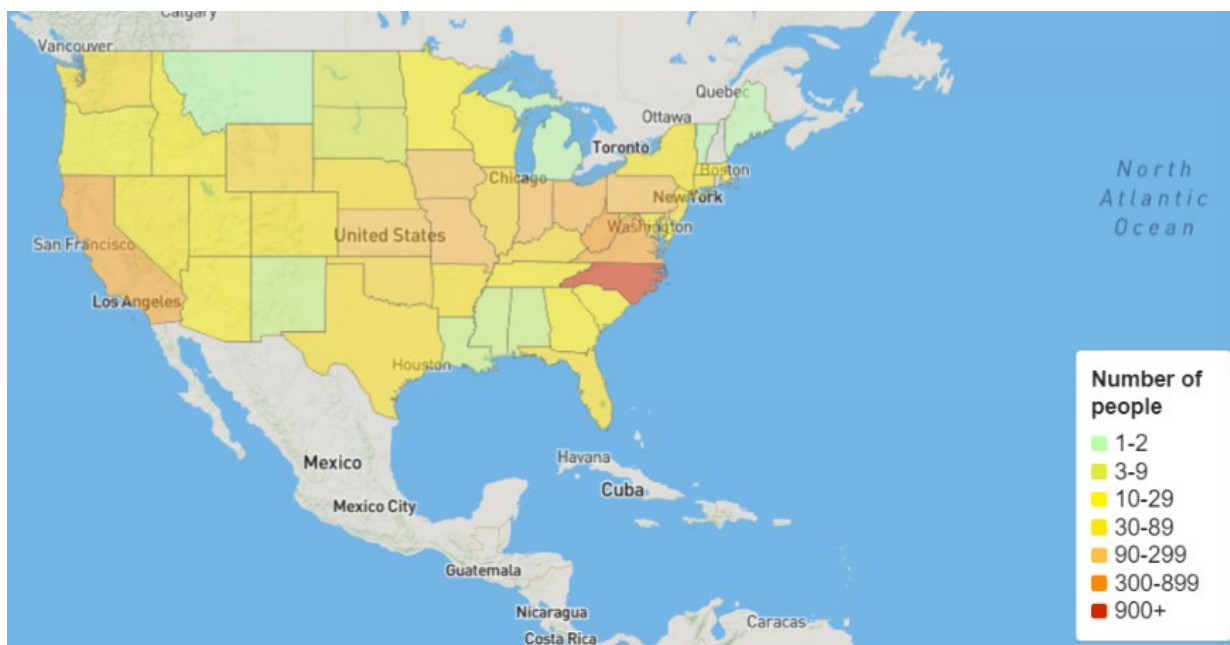
Scrolling down on the right side will also give you the option to filter by **Possible Errors**, **Hints**, and **Tree Tags**.

## Try Beta Tree Mapper

[Try the Beta Tree Mapper](#)

Trying the beta Tree Mapper is a different view of the same thing.

In my experience, the number counts, while it says people, it is the number of ancestors with records in each state.





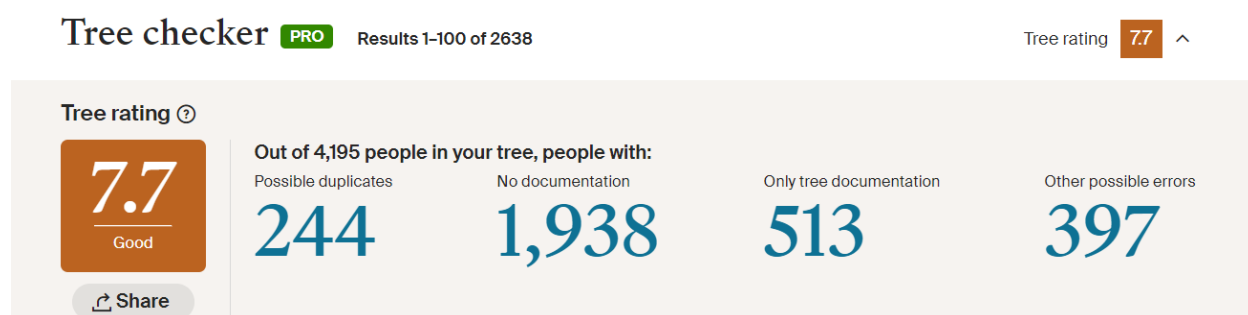
## Insights (Pro Tools)

This gives you some information about the most common surnames in your tree... but wait there is more. Scroll down. You will find who lived the longest, who had most children, and who married the youngest. All of these can help point out problems in your tree.

For example, the youngest married person in my tree, married at age 3. I do not think so! Therefore, I need to investigate, research, and fix that one.

## Tree Ratings (Pro Tool)

Using the tree checker from the Tree View opens a tree rating. Here you can filter the type of errors that you might have in your tree. I promise, everyone has errors in their tree. No one is perfect.



For those who have imported from other member trees without documentation or have used the “Quick and Dirty Tree” strategy will see a high number under No Documentation.

You will often see spouses and children who were imported from other member trees, ThruLines® in this filtered group as well.

Lastly, if you added someone from your personal knowledge without any supporting information, they would also fall into this “No Documentation” bucket.

### Quick and Dirty Tree Strategy

In case you are wondering, the “Quick and Dirty Tree” strategy is typically used when trying to discover how a DNA cousin match fits into your tree. Often the DNA cousin is quickly imported from ThruLines® so that you can work on your DNA projects. Once verified, one should go back and verify with records the connections.

## List of all People

Something Ancestry users have requested for years is the ability to print all the people in their tree. You can now do this using the Pro Tools feature under List of All People, under the Find in Tree filter.

## In Other News

Ancestry has announced a collaboration with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

In May 2024 Ancestry announced a new multi-year agreement with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to digitize, index, and publish tens of millions of NARA records on their platforms over the next five years. This will be Ancestry's largest public-private and archive collaboration to date.

## Ancestry Pricing

At RootsTech Ancestry had announced they were moving to a different membership model where it would be a worldwide all inclusive plan with the only differences being the individual plan vs. the family plan.

I recently checked with Ancestry, and we are still waiting to hear back for any updates on this one.

Donna Rutherford YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkg98DzbJYg>